



Rare Animals of Louisiana



Calcasieu Painted Crawfish

Orconectes blacki

Rarity Rank: S2/G2

Identification:

- Color is olive to brown
- Crimson highlights just behind the eyes, on the central leg joints, and on the posterior margins of the abdominal segments including the tail.
- Claws relatively long and stout.
- The fingers on the claws go from brown or greenish brown at the base to blue, cream or yellow, and red.



Taxonomic comments: Hybrids with *O. hathawayi* have been found in Allen, Rapides, and Vernon parishes.

Photo by Steve Shively

Habitat: Small to medium size streams with sand-mud bottoms

Food habits: Crawfish in general will eat just about anything including, plants, detritus, small live animals, and carrion.

Reproduction: Mating takes place in the fall and possibly winter while eggs can be observed in March and probably hatch in May.

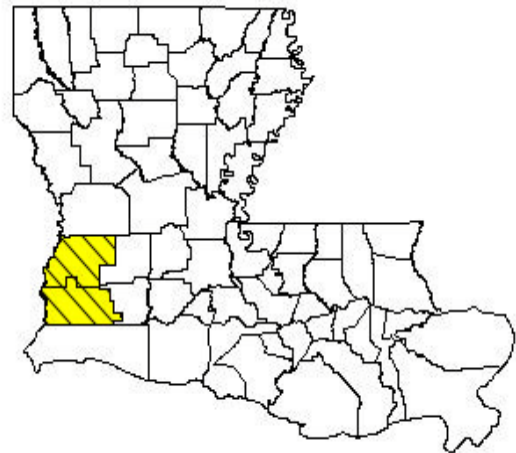
Threats:

- Degredation or alteration of habitat.
- Chemical pollution.
- Sensitive because of a limited distribution.

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.
- Prevent vehicular traffic across streams

U. S. Range: Endemic to LA; has only been found in six locations in Beauregard and Calcasieu parishes.





Rare Animals of Louisiana



References:

- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2006. Version 6.1 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: Jan. 19, 2007).
- Shively, S. H., J. G. Walls. 2003. Crawfish of the Kisatchie National Forest. Web version.
- Taylor, C. A., M. L. Warren, Jr., J. F. Fitzpatrick, Jr., H. H. Hobbs III, R. F. Jezerinac, W. L. Pflieger, and H. W. Robison. 1996. Conservation Status of Crayfishes of the United States and Canada. Fisheries 21(4): 25-38.
- Walls, J. G. 1985. Distribution and Natural History of the Crawfish *Orconectes difficilis* (Decapoda: Astacidae) in Louisiana. The Southwestern Naturalist 30(2): 189-194.